GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:37
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
NEW TREATMENT FOR BRAIN STROKE
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who suffered brain stroke in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has developed a new programme to treat patients suffering from brain stroke;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful in treatment of such patients?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 37 FOR 20.11.2002

At present, we have no surveillance system in India to monitor the number of cases of stroke or other neurological disorders at national or regional level.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have started a programme called `CODE-RED` in this regardThe treatment is with a thrombolytics drug recombitant tissue - Plasminogen activator (rt-PA) which is a naturally occurring enzyme derived from DNA technology. This is the first proven effective recommended treatment for acute ischaemic stroke if given within 3 hours of onset of stroke as it significantly improves long-term outcome in functional disability and neurological scales. Tissue Plasminogen Acivator is currently not available in India. The usefulness of Recombinant Tissue Plasminogen Activator (RPTA) has been demonstrated only in randomized studies in special research settings. Moreover, it was concluded by Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians and American Academy of Emergency Medicine that further evidence was necessary to support widespread application of Stroke thrombolytics outside research setting. An ICMR funded Indian Study at Thiruvanthapuram had to be abordoned, as sufficient number of patients were not available within three hours period of stroke.